



Candidate Questionnaire

CleanSlateNow Action is committed to eliminating the corrupting influence of big money in politics. We believe candidates best represent the public interest by choosing to accept contributions only from natural persons. We encourage candidates to reject contributions from political action committees (PACs), special interest groups, and corporations. *We are active at the local, state, and national levels across the country.*

The questions below are meant to provide information to voters about the kind of campaign contributions you are taking in your pursuit of public office and the kind of legislation you would support and propose if you take office. Your answers will also help us when considering if we will endorse a candidate in your race. Though we publicize the names of candidates who do not take PAC and special interest group money, no question is meant to serve as a litmus test. We seek to inform, educate, and engage you, other candidates, elected officials, and the public about issues surrounding campaign finance reform, and we hope the information you provide will help voters make up their own minds about the candidates. **Please complete and return the questionnaire at your earliest convenience** so we can share your responses with voters.

Thank you for your participation, and good luck in your campaign!

_____ Erin Hottenstein _____ Fort Collins City Council District 4 _____
Name Office Sought/District

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e-mail address website phone number

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1. If elected, will you use your stature as an elected official to actively support meaningful campaign finance reform in the following areas?
 - a. Support overturning *Citizens United*? **Yes**
 - b. Ban contributions in Fort Collins elections from corporations, unions, and other organizations banned from donating directly at the state level and from municipal campaigns in Denver, Lakewood, and Aurora? **Yes**
 - c. Limit special interest group contributions? **Yes**
 - d. Incentivize small-dollar contributions (\$100 or less) from individuals with publicly-funded matching funds for qualified candidates? **Yes**
 - e. Accept spending caps of \$25,000 for mayoral races and \$15,000 for Council races as part of an opt-in for matching funds? **Yes**

Are there other reforms you would propose? Ranked choice voting and moving City Council elections to November of odd years.

2. Will you accept, or have you accepted contributions from special interest groups or organizations, including political committees, political action committees, or small donor committees? *(This does not include political party contributions.)*

No

3. Will you accept, or have you accepted contributions from Leadership PACs (a committee an elected official uses to donate to other candidates and elected officials, separate from their candidate committee)?

No

4. Will you establish, or have you established your own Leadership PAC?

No

5. Will you accept, or have you already accepted contributions from large corporations (i.e., offices in more than one locality, or based out of your state with a regional or national focus)?

No

6. Will you accept, or have you already accepted contributions from small corporations (presence in only one locality, i.e., “Mom-and-Pop Shop”)?

No

7. Will you accept, or have you already accepted money from lobbyists?

No

8. Will you accept, or have you already accepted money from unions?

No

9. Do you support a **proposal to establish publicly funded campaigns in Fort Collins**, which features an opt-in program requiring candidates to meet threshold requirements of raising \$1,500 for council races and \$2,500 for mayoral races in qualifying contributions of \$25 or less from Fort Collins residents and to commit to turning down corporate, PAC, and special interest money and accepting campaign contributions only from natural persons, accepting spending caps based on historical spending data (\$25,000 for mayor and \$15,000 for Council), and limiting self-financing, all in exchange for a 1-to-1 public match on contributions from Fort Collins residents? **No**

Would you use your influence as an elected official to support similar reforms for state and federal offices? **Yes**

10. Please use as much additional space as you'd like to share any thoughts about campaign finance reform and the role of special interest, corporate, and PAC money vs. contributions from natural persons in political campaigns.

I wholeheartedly support the proposal to establish publicly funded campaigns in Fort Collins as you have outlined above except limiting contributions to \$25 and

limiting contributions to Fort Collins residents. Fort Collins already has the lowest contribution limits in the state. Further limiting them would create problems for candidates to be able to raise the money they need to reach voters. Only 5-12% of Americans donate to candidates. To significantly reduce this pool by number and amount means that candidates will have to spend more time fundraising and less time talking to voters. It also raises equity issues for the same reasons, especially for low-income candidates who may not have access to large networks of people who are able to donate and who may have to work a full-time job while they are campaigning. Lastly, I don't believe that receiving donations from family and friends who live outside the city is corrupt, so I don't agree with the resident requirement.

Erin Hottenstein

Signature

03/15/2021

Date

Completed questionnaires may be scanned and emailed to Owen@CleanSlateNowAction.org or mailed to CleanSlateNow Action at P.O. Box 100093, Denver, Colorado 80250.